

Confined Space Entry. 233rd BSB Safety and Occupational Health (OH) Program.

1. REFERENCE: 29 CFR 1910.146 establishes the requirement on effective measurements to protect employees working in confined spaces.
2. General Requirements: This supplement is required to be used as a minimum standard during Confined Space Entry Procedures in conjunction with established USAREUR Safety Policies when permit entry is required, intended to cover routine inspections and maintenance activities.
3. Definitions:
 - a. Confined space means a space that:
 - (1) Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work.
 - (2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means or entry.
 - (3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.
 - b. Non-permit confined space means a confined space that does not contain or, with respect to atmospheric hazards, have the potential to contain any hazard(s) capable of causing death or serious physical harm.
 - c. Permit required confined space (permit space) means a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:
 - (1) Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
 - (2) Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant;
 - (3) Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
 - (4) Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.
4. Program Requirements:
 - a. If an area meets the requirements for a confined space as defined in 29 CFR 1910.146 and a permit is not required.
 - b. The space is initially considered a permit-required confined space because the area does contain the potential for a hazardous atmosphere:
 - (1) The Maintenance Supervisor or his/her designated representative will be responsible for issuing the confined space entry permit. A separate permit is required for each day of entry for the task. For permit required entries, a supervisor or other competent person will be in attendance.
 - (2) A warning sign reading "DANGER CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER" shall be posted at the entrances to the area. The attendant will be responsible for ensuring unauthorized individuals do not enter the area. If unauthorized individuals enter the area and will not leave, the entrant will be removed from the confined place prior to dealing with the unauthorized individuals.
 - (3) Entry into the confined space shall be prohibited until the entry permit, all necessary tools, and equipment are available and in place. This shall be verified by the entrant prior to each entry. Protective clothing is not required for entry at this time but will be reevaluated if conditions change.

(4) Communication will be maintained by routine talking between the entrant and standby person. The attendant will contact a rescue team during any emergencies.

(5) Rescue teams will be available through the (insert procedures for local procedures). They can be contacted in an emergency by dialing (insert telephone number). The rescue team will be notified the confined space is occupied prior to permit-required entry.

c. The confined space atmosphere shall be tested prior to entry or ventilating:

(1) Prior to entry, the confined space atmosphere shall be tested for oxygen, flammable and non-flammable gases. If oxygen levels are below 20.3% or above 23.5%, flammables above 10% of the LEL, or non-flammable above half of the threshold limit value, entry will not be made until appropriate environmental levels are achieved. The oxygen/combustible gas meter will be taken into the space with the entrant to monitor changes in conditions.

(2) The individual testing the confined space atmosphere shall be trained and knowledgeable with the equipment. All equipment shall be in calibration and zeroed prior to use, if applicable.

(3) Ventilators will be placed at the entry site and ran accordingly to ensure the space is properly ventilated.

(4) No electrical lines not in conduit sources are known to exist in the space.

d. If screening or full shift sampling indicates exposure levels above established standards, entrants will be evacuated or PPE will be provided. Appropriate measures will be taken to reduce chemical exposures to an acceptable level.

e. All personal protective equipment, sampling instruments, air blowers, work tools etc., will be provided by the US Army. No personal equipment will be allowed in the area.

f. Employees will receive confined space training:

- * Prior to initial assigned duties,

- * Prior to change in assigned duties,

- * When there is a change in permit space operations that presents a hazard about which employee has not been trained.

- * If there are deviations from the permit space entry procedure required or if there are inadequacies in the employee's knowledge or use of procedures,

- * Training shall establish employee proficiency in the duties required and shall introduce new or revised procedures, as necessary.

g. No hot work orders are expected to be issued for the confined space at this time. A complete investigation shall be made and justification for its use provided to (insert name) Safety Section prior to issuance of same.

h. The entry operation is terminated when the work is over, job completed or an unsafe condition arises. The entry permits will be maintained for at least one year.

5. Assigned Duties and Training for Permit Required Entry: Training and job duties shall be the same as stated in the confined space SOP, unless duties are modified by the supervisor.